



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Marilyn Praisner

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2004

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PRAISNER TO LEAD FEDERAL GROUP ON PUBLIC SAFETY & WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Marilyn J. Praisner has been elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of SAFECOM, the federal government's umbrella program to improve public safety response by local, state and federal public safety agencies through effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications. For decades, inadequate and unreliable wireless communications have plagued public safety agencies, making it difficult or impossible to perform their mission-critical duties.

"In an emergency, it is imperative that first responders can communicate with each other, immediately and with no barriers," said Praisner. "I am honored to be elected to a national leadership position where I can make a difference on this important issue."

SAFECOM is the first national program designed by public safety for public safety. As a public safety practitioner driven program, SAFECOM is working with existing federal communications initiatives and key public safety stakeholders to address the need to develop better technologies and processes for the cross-jurisdictional and cross-disciplinary coordination of existing systems and future networks.

The SAFECOM program is located within the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology unit. Dr. David Boyd is director of the SAFECOM Program Office. # # #

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